



# The Learning Lamp

Where Military Experience and Public Education Meet

**Arizona Troops to Teachers**

Volume I Issue I

January 1, 2006

## Inauguratory Welcome

Welcome to the initial issue of *The Learning Lamp*, the Arizona Troops to Teachers newsletter. Let me start by first extending a wish to all of you for a joyful, prosperous New Year filled with much happiness and success. It seemed to me a quite fitting time to initiate *The Learning Lamp* and extend the forms of communication between all of us.

Our presence in the classrooms across the state is growing. We have 422 troops to teachers in the state of Arizona. Our records show that there are approximately 200 currently teaching. We are extending our numbers in rural areas and on the reservations in BIA schools. Our team of troops is unique, different than many other states in the variety of populations around the state.

I would like to also stress just how important it is to keep this office (and the national office in Pensacola) updated with accurate information. Please let this office know whenever you move, change phone numbers, change email addresses, contract for

positions, or obtain certification/endorsements. Many of you have received the survey from DANTES/Troops to Teachers. It is vital to complete the survey and return it to Florida. When a survey is not returned, you are temporarily withdrawn from the program. This can eventually effect stipends and bonuses. As the '05-06 school year nears ending, this office will be contacting you to inquire if you have contracted for the '06-07 school year, if you would like assistance locating a position, and/or to counsel you on certification/highly qualified matters.

There is one last matter I would like to discuss with you. In late January the state directors will assemble in Washington DC for our annual conference. Normally this conference is held in Florida. Washington was selected to make legislators aware of the importance of the program as re-authorization nears in 2006. As you are probably aware, the U.S. Department of Education recently changed the rules surrounding stipends and bonuses through Troops to



Arizona Department of Education

Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Teachers. We have seen a drop of 1/3 in the number of troops registering for the program. If you have questions, comments or concerns you would like me to address at the national conference please let me know.

As always, we are here to serve you in your second career. Feel free to contact us at any time. Our contact information is on the last page of the newsletter.

-John D. Scheuer, MA,  
Director, AZ TTT

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### Important Info/Dates:

- Please review your fingerprint card expiration date
- SEI Provisional Endorsement requirements must be met by August 31, 2006
- For many teachers, you must meet highly qualified by the end of SY05-06
- Certification offices will be closed January 16, 2006
- Notify this office if you contract, move, change email, etc.

## Director's Travel Schedule

Flagstaff Certification Office,  
2384 Steves Blvd, Rm #137,  
Flagstaff, AZ 86004  
(928) 679-8117

February 24, April 28, June 30,  
August 25, October 27, December 29

Tucson Certification Office,  
400 W. Congress St. #118,  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 628-6326

January 20, March 24, May 26,  
July 28, September 29, November 24

- January 9-13: Western States Certification Consortium, San Francisco
- January 22-26: Troops to Teachers Annual Conference, Washington DC
- July 16-23: DoD Worldwide Education Symposium, Orlando

# CERTIFICATION NEWS



English Acquisition Services  
Irene Moreno  
Deputy Associate Superintendent  
(602) 542-0753

*We cannot have a successful education system unless all children who come to school not knowing English become proficient in English as quickly as possible, and succeed academically. We are committed 100 percent to helping the schools achieve that success.*

-State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne, Tucson Citizen, September 3, 2003.



Early Childhood Education  
Karen Woodhouse  
Deputy Associate Superintendent  
(602) 364-1530

Alisa Cusseau,  
Administrative Assistant,  
(602) 364-1984

Early Childhood Certification /  
Endorsement questions:  
[Kasey Ohrns](mailto:Kasey.Ohrns@ade.state.az.us) (602) 542-2029

## SEI

As you are probably aware, the State Board of Education approved the requirement of the Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement on January 24, 2005. The Endorsement is required for those holding an Elementary, Secondary, Principal, Supervisor, Superintendent, Career and Technical, and/or Special Education certification. The endorsement is **not** required for those holding a Full ESL Endorsement or a Full Bilingual Endorsement (may be required by district rules).

The Provisional SEI Endorsement is required, as applicable, by August 31, 2006, and requires completion of 15 clock hours of professional development or 1 semester hour (1 credit). The Provisional Endorsement does not need to be obtained on your

certification by August 31, 2006, but you must meet the requirements for the Endorsement and have the documentation on file with your district office by that date. (Districts may however, at their discretion, require obtaining Provisional Endorsement) The Full SEI Endorsement is required, as applicable, by August 31, 2009, and requires an additional 45 clock hours of professional development or 3 semester hours (3 credits).

If you apply at one time to obtain a Full SEI Endorsement, you must fulfill both the requirements for the Provisional and Full. In other words, to obtain the Full SEI Endorsement you must have documentation of either 4 semester hours (4 credits) or 60 clock hours of professional development. If you apply to renew a certification after

August 31, 2009 and have not met the requirements for both the Provisional and Full SEI Endorsement, you will be denied renewal.

There is a list of State Board approved Professional Development Trainers and Institutions providing credits for SEI. You may view/download this list at the following website:

[www.ade.state.az.us/asd/lep](http://www.ade.state.az.us/asd/lep)

Click on the link "State Board Approved Endorsement Training"

Questions concerning SEI Endorsements can be directed either to Kathy Hill, Education Program Specialist, English Acquisition Services, [khill@ade.az.gov](mailto:khill@ade.az.gov), (602) 542-3050, or the [Troops to Teachers State Director](#).

## Early Childhood Education Fast Facts

- Teachers serving children birth through kindergarten must have either an Early Childhood Certificate or Endorsement by July 1, 2009
- Early Childhood Certificate or Endorsement is optional, but recommended, for teachers in grades 1-3.
- Certificates and Endorsements became available September 26, 2005
- AEPA Assessment for Early Childhood will be available Fall, 2006. If you qualify for, and obtain, Certificate or Endorsement before the assessment, you will not have to take the assessment.
- Certification Requirements:
  - Bachelor's Degree
  - Completion of an approved teacher preparation program in early childhood or 37 semester hours of coursework in early childhood content areas
  - Practicum (student teaching) of at least 8 semester hours (4 in birth-preK, 4 in K-3)
  - Passing score on Early Childhood Professional Knowledge and Subject Knowledge AEPAs
- Endorsement Requirements:
  - Current AZ Certification in Elementary Education or Special Education
  - 21 hours of coursework in early childhood content areas
  - Practicum (student teaching) of at least 8 semester hours
  - Passing score on Early Childhood Subject Knowledge APEA
  - National Board Certified Teachers in Early Childhood automatically qualify for Endorsement

More information can be obtained by visiting the Early Childhood web site at

<http://www.ade.az.gov/earlychildhood/>

## Middle School Mathematics

Beginning in the Spring of 2006, Secondary Education teachers will be able to become certified with an approved area of "Middle School Mathematics." The Middle School Mathematics Subject Knowledge AEPA (#37) will be available beginning with the April 8, 2006 AEPA administration.

The company administering the AEPAs, National Evaluation Systems Inc, has not yet made study guides or test objectives available to view/download. It is anticipated test objectives will be available first in the early Spring. Objectives, Study Guides and other information regarding

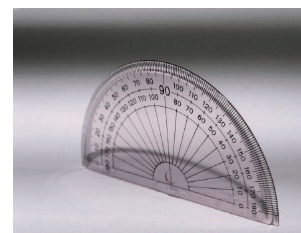
AEPA is available at the AEPA web site:

[www.aepa.nesinc.com](http://www.aepa.nesinc.com)

(800) 239-8105

The AZ Troops to Teachers office, as well as the certification offices in Flagstaff and Tucson have AEPA bulletins available to Troops at no cost.

You may view/download AZ math standards at: [www.ade.az.gov/standards/contentstandards.asp](http://www.ade.az.gov/standards/contentstandards.asp)



A New AEPA exam will be available in April 2006 to obtain certification for an approved area of Middle Grade Mathematics. Generally speaking, middle school math consists of low-mid level algebra and geometry.

## Performance Assessment

Beginning June 1, 2006, teachers obtaining their initial teaching certification will be required to pass the Performance Assessment to convert to a Standard six year certification. The Performance Assessment will require a video tape of one's teaching, written commentary, and supporting evidence. Descriptions of the process and materials and methods to support new teachers who will be affected are being developed.

The Performance Assessment is for the purpose of licensure

and quality assurance that new teachers can demonstrate competence in the Arizona Professional Teaching Standards. The Assessment will not replace building principal observations and evaluations which serve for purposes of continued employment. Just as students are given a number of opportunities to pass AIMS, teachers will be allowed to attempt the Performance Assessment up to five times. We recommend testing in third year of career to allow opportunity to practice and

refine initial teaching skills.

Until June 1, 2006, two years full time, verified teaching experience will suffice in lieu of the Performance Assessment to convert any Provisional Certificate to Standard Certificate. Questions concerning Performance Assessment can be addressed to Lisa Kelley, Education Program Specialist, Highly Qualified Professionals, [lisa.kelley@azed.gov](mailto:lisa.kelley@azed.gov), (602) 364-2191, or the [AZ Troops to Teachers State Director](#).



*Are you a competent teacher? The "new" Performance Assessment will determine what teachers progress from the two year certification to the six year certification.*

## Highly Qualified

Before even addressing the subject of being highly qualified, you must first be appropriately certified! In other words, you can not hold a Secondary Teaching Certification with an approved area of Physical Education and teach 5 classes of Mathematics. If you teach Mathematics you must have it as an approved area on your certification. You can not hold an Elementary Teaching Certification and teach Art unless you have an Art Endorsement. Being appropriately certified is prerequisite to being highly qualified.

The Department of Education has assembled a "crosswalk" to present a visual aid to deter-

mine if you are appropriately certified and/or highly qualified. There are deadlines for which a teacher must meet highly qualified status as can be seen to the right.

Information on Highly Qualified requirements may be addressed to the [AZ Troops to Teachers State Director](#) or to Vickie Walters, Education Program Specialist, Highly Qualified Professionals Unit, [vwalter@ade.az.gov](mailto:vwalter@ade.az.gov), (602) 364-2192.

More information is also available by visiting the Department of Education's HQ web page at:

[www.ade.az.gov/asd/hqtp](http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/hqtp)

Veteran, multi-subject teacher in eligible rural district*	School Year '06-07
New, multi-subject teacher in eligible rural district	Must be HQ in one area at time of hire, 2 yrs to become HQ in other areas
New, multi-subject SPED teacher	Must be HQ in Math, LA, or Science at time of hire, 2 yrs to become HQ in other areas
ALL Other Teachers in All state and charter schools	End of School Year '05-06
* a list of eligible REAP schools is available at <a href="http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/hqtp">www.ade.az.gov/asd/hqtp</a>	

## Professional Development



Make sure you are gaining adequate professional development hours to keep your certification current.

The Department of Education has some new, innovative programs to help you develop as an educator. As we already know, a number of professional development hours are required to renew the standard six year teaching certificates. The Department has expanded professional development opportunities beyond that provided by individual districts/schools.

By first creating the Professional Development Leadership Academy ([www.ade.az.gov/ess/PDLA/](http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/PDLA/)), and more recently IDEAL (Integrated Data to Enhance Arizona's Learning) (<https://www.ideal.azed.gov/cas/>)

along with ASSET (Arizona School Services Through Educational Technology) ([www.asset.asu.edu](http://www.asset.asu.edu)), the Department strives to provide a wide variety of options for teachers to develop professionally.

More notably has been the recent integration of Teachscape into professional development programs of 33 schools. Teachscape provides a multitude of tools for educators, from online videos and case analysis, to online nationwide conferencing, to a vast document resource library to links to local "experts in the field."

For information on professional development opportunities beyond that provided by schools, see the Department's Professional Development web page at:

[www.ade.az.gov/resourcecenter/professional\\_development.asp](http://www.ade.az.gov/resourcecenter/professional_development.asp)

To view the professional development activities that apply to certification requirements go to:

[www.ade.az.gov/certification/prodevactiv.asp](http://www.ade.az.gov/certification/prodevactiv.asp)

## Alternative Secondary Path To Certification



Still haven't earned your teaching certification? Do you desire to teach high school? Well, Arizona's pilot program "Alternative Secondary Path to Certification" just may be what you've been waiting for. You may have read about this same program in the *Arizona Republic* in their sensationalized term "Instant Teacher." Though you are not an instant teacher, this particular program has many facets that bridge mid career changers, such as our Troops, to classroom teachers. Benefits of the program include:

- Teach immediately following the summer training program and receive full teacher salary and benefits
- Tuition reimbursement may be available if you teach in a high need school and meet certain other requirements.
- Support of 15-20 teacher cohort
- Enter classroom Highly Qualified.
- 3.0 or higher GPA
- Passing score on the Subject Knowledge AEPA
- Valid fingerprint card
- "Letter of Intent to Hire" from a participating school district

[www.ade.az.gov/asd/altpath](http://www.ade.az.gov/asd/altpath)

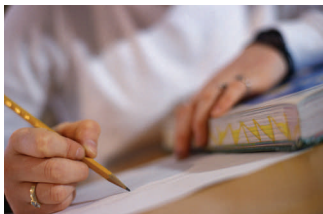
Contact: [Troops to Teachers State Director](#), or Sharon Turley, Education Program Specialist, Transition to Teaching. (602) 364-3553,

[sturley@ade.az.gov](mailto:sturley@ade.az.gov)

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree or above

## Teacher Prep Programs



What Program Should You Chose to Become a Teacher in Arizona? Let the Troops to Teachers staff offer suggestions/guidance.

Our AZ Troops to Teachers web page will soon be updated with a new section that outlines a number of available teacher prep programs.

Three programs you should know about:

1. University of Great Falls and Bellevue have partnered into a consortium "Teach for a Change" which offers distance learning Master of Arts in

Teaching (MAT) degrees for secondary teachers and includes a coordinated local student teaching/practicum of 12 credits. The tuition cost for the MAT is just over \$17K (\$405/cr). You may obtain program information from the [AZ Troops to Teachers State Director](#) or by visiting [www.teachforachange.org](http://www.teachforachange.org)

2. [North Central University](#) in Prescott offers distance

learning M.Ed., Ed.D., and Ph.D. degrees in education. Their programs, however, do not lead a candidate to certification. There is no student teaching/practicum in a program through this institution.

3. [www.teachforamerica.org](http://www.teachforamerica.org) (also provides up to \$9,450 in education awards)

When comparing programs feel free to contact me to determine which programs meet certification requirements.



## Veteran's News...

### TRICARE FEE TO INCREASE.

Defense Department officials have drafted plans to raise TRICARE enrollment fees and deductibles sharply over the next three years for military retirees under age 65 and their families, about three million beneficiaries. If the changes touted by senior Defense officials are adopted, annual enrollment fees for TRICARE Prime, the military's managed care option, would triple by October 2008 for working-age retired officers and double for enlisted retirees. Yearly deductibles for retirees using TRICARE Standard, the fee-for-service health insurance option, would double for officers and rise by a third for enlisted. Also, for the first time retirees who use TRICARE Standard would pay an enrollment fee in addition to their deductible. Pharmacy co-payments also would be raised but for all retirees and their families, regardless of age, if they use the retail drug network or the TRICARE mail order program to buy brand name drugs on the military formulary. The aim of these initiatives is to slow the projected rise in military healthcare costs by as much as \$12 billion over five years and \$32 billion through fiscal 2015. This would occur, proponents argue, by having working-age retirees pay a greater share of TRICARE costs and by encouraging others to switch to their employer-provided health insurance. One assumption being used to estimate cost savings is that for every 10 percent increase in out-of-pocket costs, the number of beneficiaries using TRICARE Prime or Standard will fall by one percent. If accurate, 600,000 beneficiaries would drop out of TRICARE plans by 2015. Defense officials have expressed alarm over a recent migration of retirees into TRICARE and away from employer-provided health insurance. Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, has said that some civilian employers are offering their retired military workers cash incentives to use TRICARE instead of company insurance. Bryan Whitman, deputy assistant secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, said defense healthcare spending, if left unchecked, could reach \$64 billion by 2015, or 12 percent of total defense spending, endangering a prized benefit. In fiscal 1995, he said, healthcare was only five percent of the defense budget. TRICARE Prime enrollment fees of \$230 a year for individual coverage and \$460 for family coverage, and the TRICARE Standard deductible of \$150 (single) and \$300 (family) haven't been raised since they were set more than a decade ago. Whitman said this contributes to growth in department costs. Budget documents contend the TRICARE fee structure is only one-third as costly to users as equivalent civilian plans. Defense officials not only want fees and deductibles raised for retirees and their families, in three hefty annual increments, but also want fees after that indexed to inflation so they climb in lockstep each year with growth in medical costs nationwide. Some of the planned TRICARE increases won't require a change in law, only in regulation, although department plans for fees are sure to be the subject of congressional hearings in 2006. Lawmakers could step in to block or amend the plan if the planned increases seem unreasonable. Draft budget papers predict a "pushback" from retiree organizations. The first shot was fired Dec. 8 when the Military Coalition, a consortium of 36 service associations and veterans' groups, sent a letter to members of the House and Senate armed service committees urging that they oppose department plans to shift a larger share of medical costs to retirees. Congress gave military retirees better health benefits as an "offset to the unique demands and sacrifices inherent in a military career," the coalition said. Requiring them to pay more for health care, the letter argues, "is not a prudent course of action, especially when the nation is at war." The "benefit adjustment" scenario being discussed, both in the fiscal 2007 budget formulation process and resource-sharing debate for the Quadrennial Defense Review, calls for all under-65 retirees to pay more to use TRICARE Prime, Standard and Extra, the preferred provider network option, but retired officers also would pay more than enlisted retirees. Prime enrollment fees (now \$230/\$460) would be raised for retired officers to \$400/\$800 (individual/family) next October, to \$600/\$1200 a year later and to \$750/\$1500 by October 2008, the start of fiscal 2009. Enlisted retirees under 65 would see Prime enrollment fees climb to \$300/\$600 next October, to \$375/\$750 a year later and to \$450/\$900 in October 2008. First-ever enrollment fees for TRICARE Standard would start for officers at \$150/\$300 (individual/family) and rise to \$225/\$450 by October 2007 and to \$300/\$600 in 2008. Enlisted retirees would pay \$100/\$200 next October, rising to \$150/\$300 the next year and to \$200/\$400 in 2008. Annual deductibles under TRICARE Standard and Extra, now \$150/\$300, would climb for retired officers to \$200/\$400 next fall, to \$250/\$500 in October 2007 and to \$300/\$600 in 2008. Enlisted retirees would see their Standard deductible rise to \$175/\$350 next October, remain there for two years and rise to \$200/\$400 in October 2008. Co-payments under the TRICARE pharmacy program would be reshaped to discourage purchase of maintenance medicines in the more expensive retail network. The \$3 co-payment for generic drugs will rise to \$5 in the retail network but would be free if order by mail. The current \$9 co-pay for brand drugs would rise to \$15 in retail network and \$10 by mail.

For a detailed chart showing the proposed TRICARE Fee changes visit [www.military.com/TRICARE\\_Chart](http://www.military.com/TRICARE_Chart).

## KUDO's

A hearty congratulations to fellow Troop to Teacher Eric Combs who was selected as Ohio's Teacher of the Year on December 14th. Eric is a retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant and teaches Social Studies at Fairborn City Schools. You may be interested in going to his web site at:

[www.mrcombshistory.com](http://www.mrcombshistory.com)

Also, congratulations to Troop to Teacher Dan Lieja who was

awarded the Department of Education 2005 Star Teachers Award for Texas. Dan is also a retired Air Force, Master Sergeant, teaches elementary school in San Antonio, TX. Only one Star Teacher is named for each state

Bravo Zulu to Eric and Dan.



Hear good things about our Troop Teachers? Pass it on to this office for wider, peer recognition! Email your recognitions to: [jscheue@ade.az.gov](mailto:jscheue@ade.az.gov)

## Mentoring

If you are currently teaching (preferably 3+ years), and would be interested in mentoring new Troop Teachers, please review the mentoring guidelines at the national Troops to Teachers web page: [www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/troopstoteach-](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/troopstoteach-ers/mentor/mentor1.htm?Flag=True)

If you'd like to be added to the state Troops web page to mentor AZ Troops, please notify the [AZ Troops](http://AZTroops.com), please notify the [AZ Troops State Director](http://AZTroops.com).

## Arizona Troops to Teachers

1535 West Jefferson  
Bin #46, Room #121  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Phone: 800-839-2134 / Fax: 602-542-1141

John Scheuer, Director  
[jscheue@ade.az.gov](mailto:jscheue@ade.az.gov)  
602-542-4257

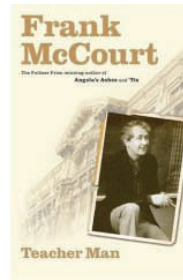
Josie Luna, Program Assistant  
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[www.ade.az.gov/troops2teachers](http://www.ade.az.gov/troops2teachers)



[www.pathway2teach.org](http://www.pathway2teach.org)

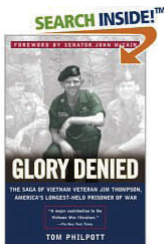
## Recommended Reading



*Teacher Man: A Memoir*

Frank McCourt, author  
of *Angela's Ashes* and *Tis*.

This final memoir in the trilogy that started with *Angela's Ashes* and continued in *'Tis* focuses almost exclusively on McCourt's 30-year teaching career in New York City's public high schools, which began at McKee Vocational and Technical in 1958. His first day in class, a fight broke out and a sandwich was hurled in anger. McCourt immediately picked it up and ate it. On the second day of class, McCourt's retort about the Irish and their sheep brought the wrath of the principal down on him. All McCourt wanted to do was teach, which wasn't easy in the jumbled bureaucracy of the New York City school system. Pretty soon he realized the system wasn't run by teachers but by sterile functionaries. "I was uncomfortable with the bureaucrats, the higher-ups, who had escaped classrooms only to turn and bother the occupants of those classrooms, teachers and students. I never wanted to fill out their forms, follow their guidelines, administer their examinations, tolerate their snooping, adjust myself to their programs and courses of study." As McCourt matured in his job, he found ingenious ways to motivate the kids: have them write "excuse notes" from Adam and Eve to God; use parts of a pen to define parts of a sentence; use cookbook recipes to get the students to think creatively. A particularly warming and enlightening lesson concerns a class of black girls at Seward Park High School who felt slighted when they were not invited to see a performance of *Hamlet*, and how they taught McCourt never to have diminished expectations about any of his students. McCourt throws down the gauntlet on education, asserting that teaching is more than achieving high test scores. It's about educating, about forming intellects, about getting people to think. McCourt's many fans will of course love this book, but it also should be mandatory reading for every teacher in America. And it wouldn't hurt some politicians to read it, too. (*Publishers Weekly*)



*Glory Denied: The Saga  
of Jim Thompson,  
America's Longest Held  
Prisoner of War*  
Tom Philpott, for-  
ward by John McCain

Col. Floyd James "Jim" Thompson of the U.S. Army Special Forces was captured by the Vietcong in South Vietnam in March 1964 and held longer than any other prisoner of war in American history, suffering greatly physically and emotionally. He was released, along with other American POWs, in March 1973. Thompson's troubles, however, only multiplied after his release. During his captivity, Thompson's wife, Alyce, moved with their four young children into the home of an army sergeant and told the children their father was dead. The Thompsons reunited after his release, but their marriage soon dissolved, and Thompson later suffered a stroke that diminished his mental capabilities. For this biography, Philpott, who writes the syndicated column "Military Update," interviewed 160 people over 15 years. In an even more vivid, manner than Mailer's *The Executioner's Song* or George Plimpton's *Truman Capote*, Philpott tells Thompson's story mainly through the verbatim testimony he gathered from Thompson's family, friends and colleagues, along with various newspaper articles and other ephemera that have collected around Thompson. The Thompson family's postwar lives read like a Jerry Springer show, replete with severe alcoholism, spousal abuse, adultery, teenage pregnancy, bitter divorce and the jailing of Thompson's son on a murder charge. Philpott arranges the entire story deftly, with the most riveting sections covering Thompson's incarceration. Much of Thompson's own contributions come from interviews he gave for another book before his stroke. Philpott himself emerges here mostly through his choices in montage, and his refusal to comment directly gives this work real dignity. (May 14) *Forecast: A New Yorker* abridgement (Apr. 2 issue), a short foreword from Vietnam POW Sen. John McCain and release in time for Memorial Day should launch this book with verve, and its uncanny mix of human and military interest should quickly propel it onto bestseller lists. (*Publishers Weekly*)